

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN NEW YORK 4968 SENT SECSTATE INFO ROME

GENEVA DATED OCT 13.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA--AGENDA ITEM 60, DRAFT US STATEMENT ON FOOD
POLICY

REF: USUN 4895

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS DRAFT US STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 60
(FOOD PROBLEMS) UNDER CONSIDERATION IN SECOND COMITE. AS WE
ARE SCHEDULED TO SPEAK ON EITHER OCTOBER 16 OR 17, MISSION
WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S COMMENTS SOONEST. EITHER
FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATEMENT OR FOR OUR BACKGROUND INFORMA-
TION, WE WOULD APIRECIATE LATEST STATUS OF COMMODITY NEGO-
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TIATIONS ON COFFEE, COCOA AND SUGAR AS WELL AS OF IFAD.

QUOTE

DRAFT STATEMENT: FOOD PROBLEMS

1. MAY I BEGIN, MR. CHAIRMAN, BY JOINING WITH OTHERS IN EXPRESS-
ING MY DELEGATION'S APPRECIATION TO DR. HANNAH, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOR HIS INTRODUCTION
OF THIS ITEM. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BOTH BY THE
LUCIDITY AND THOROUGHNESS OF HIS REPORT AND BY HIS
PERSONAL EFFORTS IN THIS AREA OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO ALL OF US. WE HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PREVIOUS SPEAKERS ON THIS
ITEM AND FIND THAT WE SHARE WITH THEM A GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION AND A BELIEF THAT URGENT AND COOPERA-
TIVE ACTION IS REQUIRED.

2. I THINK THAT I NEED REMIND NO ONE HERE OF THE
MAJOR IMPORTANCE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE
QUESTION OF FOOD. WE DO SO FOR MANY REASONS. THE
UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST FOOD PRODUCING
COUNTRIES -- AND ONE OF THE WORLD'S MAJOR FOOD IMPORTING
AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES. THUS WE HAVE A DIRECT AND

IMMEDIATE STAKE IN HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PARTICULAR
SECTOR OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. WE ARE EQUALLY AWARE OF THE STRATEGIC
IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE TOTAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. AND AS
WE HAVE OFTEN SAID IN THE PAST, OUR INTEREST IN PROMOTING ECONOMIC
AND

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SIMPLY ALTRUISTIC -- WE RECOGNIZE THAT
IN THIS INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, OUR OWN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY
IS INEXTRICABLY BOUND TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF OTHERS.
AND FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, MY GOVERNMENT IS SENSITIVE TO
THE HUMANE DIMENSIONS INVOLVED. THIS GOES BEYOND
RESPONDING TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER AND
MALNUTRITION WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED IN TODAY'S
WORLD. IT MEANS RESPONDING TO PEOPLE'S HOPES FOR THE
FUTURE, FOR A LIFE OF SECURITY AND DIGNITY. IT IS
APPROPRIATE THAT DR. HANNAH CONCLUDED HIS STATEMENT BY
SAYING: "IN THE END, IT IS ONLY THE PEOPLE THAT ARE
IMPORTANT."

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3. THE BASIC APPROACH OF MY GOVERNMENT TO FOOD
PROBLEMS WAS SET FORTH IN SOME DETAIL IN THE STATEMENT
OF SECRETARY KISSINGER BEFORE THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION
AND THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN
NEGOTIATION OF THE RESOLUTION. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO
REVIEW THIS POLICY IN DETAIL NOW, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO
RESTATE THE BASIC PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S STATEMENT.

-- THE PROBLEM MUST BE APPROACHED GLOBALLY,
COMPREHENSIVELY, AND COOPERATIVELY, BY CONSULTATION AND
NEGOTIATION AMONG ALL SIGNIFICANT PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS;

- PRODUCERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE GLOBAL INTEREST IN STABILITY OF SUPPLY, AND CONSUMERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE INTEREST OF PRODUCERS IN STABILITY OF MARKET AND EARNINGS;
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; AND,
- WHERE VOLATILE DEMAND IS COMBINED WITH LIMITED ABILITY TO MAKE SHORT-TERM INCREASES IN PRODUCTION, BUFFER STOCKS MAY BE THE BEST APPROACH TO ACHIEVING GREATER SECURITY FOR BOTH CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS.

4. THE WORLD'S CONCERN FOR FOOD PROBLEMS WAS MOST COMPREHENSIVELY EXPRESSED AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 1974. THE DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS AGREED TO THERE PROVIDE A PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH DESERVE OUR MOST SERIOUS COMMITMENT. IN GOOD MEASURE, THIS COMMITMENT WAS RE-ENFORCED AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION. IN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS DURING THIS SESSION, OTHER HAVE NOTED THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN ATMOSPHERE WHICH MARKED THAT SESSION -- A MOVE FROM CONFRONTATION TOWARDS THE MUTUAL ADJUSTMENT OF NATIONAL INTERESTS IN GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. IN OUR VIEW, THIS IS TRUE AND IT IS IMPORTANT. BUT EQUALLY IMPORTANT ARE THE SPECIFICS WE AGREED TO THERE. JUST TO MENTION A FEW:

- TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE EXPORT EARNINGS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;
- TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE VOLUME OF ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PRODUCTION;
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- TO WORK AT REDUCING POST-HARVEST LOSSES;
- TO ADOPT POLICIES TO ENSURE STABLE AND SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF FERTILIZER AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL INPUTS;
- TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT;
- TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

THE LISTING OF COMMITMENTS IN NEITHER COMPLETE NOR MEANT TO INDICATE ANY PRIORITY. I SIMPLY WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION MOVED BEYOND ATMOSPHERICS AND INVOLVED COMMITMENTS OF PRACITCAL NATURE. IT IS NOW OUR TAKS TO WORK TO FULFILL THEM EVEN THOUGH THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED ARE COMPLEX, YENSITIVE AND WILL REQUIRE CONTINUING EFFORT.

5. IN THAT REGARD I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES RECORD IN THE FIELD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE HAS BEEN GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE:

- THIS FISCAL YEAR, THE UNITED STATES FOOD AID BUDGET PROVIDES FOR ALMOST 6 MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAIN--

60 PERCENT OF THE WORLD TARGET OF 10 MILLION TONS AND AN INCREASE OF 20 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR.

-- WR ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA TO GIVE EFFECTIVE PRIORITY TO THE PROBLEMS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ARE A MAJOR SOURCE OF EARNINGS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE STATED OUR INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE COMMODITY NEGOTIATIONS DEALING WITH COFFEE, COCA, AND SUGAR.

-- ON SEPTEMBER 29, THE UNITED STATES PRESENTED BEFORE A WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL A PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF NATIONALLY HELD GRAIN RESERVES. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE FOR EARLY PROGRESS ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER AND ARE ACTIVELY WORKING TO THAT END.

AS SECRETARY KISSINGER ANNOUNCED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING AUTHORIZATION FROM CONGRESS TO CONTRIBUTE \$200 MILLION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED OTHERS DO THEIR FAIR SHARE.

- SIMILARY, WE ARE SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZA-
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TION TO DOUBLE OUR BILATERAL AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE --
TO REACH TO SUM OF \$582 MILLION THIS YEAR.

-- DOMESTICALLY, WE ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF MAXIMUM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SO AS TO PERMIT US TO CONTINUE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FOOD NEEDS. WE ARE PROUD OF THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES FARMER IN HELPING TO MEET THE FOOD NEEDS OF THE WORLD IN THE PAST. WE ARE SURE THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS PART. MAXIMUM EFFICIENT AMERICAN PRODUCTION REMAINS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR POLICY GOALS WHICH ALSO INCLUDE INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD TO MEET ITS OWN FOOD NEEDS.

6. A FINAL GENERAL COMMENT, MR. CHAIRMAN. RESOLUTION VIII OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE DEALTH WITH WOMEN AND FOOD. SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR TREATED THE SAME ISSUE, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. MY DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO REEMPHASIZE ITS CONVICTION THAT AS WE DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF FOOD, WE MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT IN MANY COUNTRIES WOMEN PLAY THE PRIMARY ROLE IN THE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD. GIVEN THIS AS WELL AS OUR GENERAL BELIEF THAT WOMEN SHOULD ENJOY THEIR FULL RIGHTS AS HUMAN BEINGS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THEY PARTICIPATE EQUALLY IN THE DECISION MAKING AND IMPLEMENTING PROCESSES.

7. TURNING NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, TO SPECIFIC ITEMS BEFORE US UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, ECOSOC DECISION 118 (LIX) RECOMMENDS THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVE A

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS/FAO INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AS A COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES. MY DELEGATION IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT THIS DRAFT RESOLUTION. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM DURING THE 1977-1978 BIENNium. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAIL, MY DELEGATION ACTIVELY SUPPORTS A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER THE PRESENT TARGET OF \$440 MILLION BUT BELIEVES THAT THE INCREASE MUST BE REALISTIC IN TERMS OF RESOURCES WHICH MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE CONTRIBUTED AND IN TERMS OF THE CAPACITY OF THE WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOOD PROGRAM TO UTILIZE SUCH RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY. THIS OF COURSE DOES NOT IMPLY A FORMAL COMMITMENT BY THE UNITED STATES OF ANY FIXED AMOUNT OR PERCENTAGE OF THE TARGET THAT IS DECIDED UPON; WE WILL MAKE OUR FORMAL COMMITMENT AT THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE.

8. WE LISTENED WITH GREAT ATTENTION TO THE REPORT BY DR. HANNAH ON THE RESULTS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE INTERESTED COUNTRIES DEALING WITH THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. AS I INDICATED EARLIER, THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A FUND AND HAS ALREADY INITIATED EFFORTS TO BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION. THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. WE ARE PLEASED THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DEFINING THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE FUND TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A MEETING OF INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS, OCTOBER 27-31. WE HOPE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE AND ADOPT THE ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT OF IFAD AND OBTAIN INDICATIONS OF PLEDGES FROM THOSE COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO.

9. IN CONCLUSION MR. CHAIRMAN, LET ME ASSOCIATE MY DELEGATION WITH COMMENTS BY MANY SPEAKERS WHO HAVE UNDERSCORED THE NECESSITY FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION IN THE FOOD SECTOR WITHOUT WHICH DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF MANY COUNTRIES MUST FALTER AND FAIL. THE TECHNOLOGICAL MEANS EXIST TO ASSURE PROGRESS. MY DELEGATION IS CONVINCED THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY CAN GENERATE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL WILL AND THAT AN ENCOURAGING BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE.
MOYNIHAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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